

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 101525 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3471

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS WA SF

SUBJ: MORE ARRESTS IN OWAMBO

REF : CAPE TOWN 352

1. MAY 9 ARGUS (CAPE TOWN) REPORTED ARREST OF SIX MORE OVAMBOS FOR ALLEGEDLY HOLDING POLITICAL MEETING IN OWAMBO AFTER BEING DENIED PERMISSION BY CHIEF MINISTER PHILEMON ELIFAS. ARRESTS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE BEFORE DETENTION OF THREE OVAMBO OPPOSITION LEADERS LAST WEEK (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS FROM WINDHOEK, THE SIX ARE LEADERS OF SWAPO YOUTH MOVEMENT.

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2. LAST NIGHT SA POLICE COMMISSIONER JOUBERT DENIED THAT SIX PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AS REPORTED. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND CONVICTED. WHEN WE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' OFFICIAL HERE SAID DFA KNEW "NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS." DEPARTMENT OF BANTU AFFAIRS OFFICIAL EQUALLY UNABLE SHED ANY LIGHT ON SUBJECT, SAYING IT WAS A POLICE MATTER.

3. REPORTER RESPONSIBLE FOR STORY TOLD US IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION LATE TODAY THAT HE FULLY SATISFIED THAT SIX ARRESTS TOOK PLACE. MOREOVER, HE HAS INFORMATION THAT ANOTHER PROMINENT MEMBER OF SWAPO ARRESTED TODAY. THIS MAN HAD ACCOMPANIED NANGUTUUALA, OTTO, AND NUUKWAWO WHEN THEY MET WITH ELIFAS APRIL 30 TO PROTEST AGAINST SELF- RULE FOR OWAMBO. REPORTER STATED TRIAL OF THE THREE TENTATIVELY SET FOR LATTER PART OF NEXT WEEK IN OWAMBO. BRIAN O' LINN, PROMINENT SWA ATTORNEY AND US LEADER GRANTEE, WILL DEFEND.

4. COMMENT: INEPT HANDLING OF AFFAIR AND LACK OF CO-ORDINATION AMONG DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS IS TYPICAL OF SAG BUREAUCRACY. DFA, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY IS CONCERNED AT EFFECT ARRESTS COULD HAVE ON SECURITY COUNCIL DECISION RE WALDHEIM REPORT. NATIONAL CONVENTION VICE CHAIRMAN, CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUO, SAYS NC LOOKING INTO MATTER AND WHEN IT HAS FULL FACTS IT WILL CONSIDER MAKING PROTEST TO UN. IN MEANTIME, SAG APPARENTLY WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH CONSEQUENCES OF CREATING OWAMBO GOVERNMENT AND GIVING IT FULL POWERS TO REPRESS ANY POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO IT.
HURD

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